

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend paragraph [0016] as follows:

[0016] An optical scanner is integrated with a mailing machine and representative data, such as barcodes, are printed on the mailpieces as they are created, for example, by Mail Creations equipment, such as SMARTMAILER™/ENVELOPE DESIGNER™ and the ADDRESSRIGHT™ equipment. (SMARTMAILER, ENVELOPE DESIGNER and ADDRESSRIGHT are trademarks of Pitney Bowes Inc., Stamford, CT).

Please amend paragraph [0019] as follows:

[0019] As the mailpieces are fed into the mailing machine, the scanner captures an image of the mailpiece, or merely reads or interprets the barcoded information, which may then be transmitted to a server, for example a MailCode POSTBACKOFFICE PostBackOffice<sup>®</sup> (POSTBACKOFFICE PostBackOffice is a trademark of Pitney Bowes Inc., Stamford, CT) server, for tracking and tracing purposes. The scanner could also interpret the barcode on the mailpiece and signal the mailing machine to set the indicated postage amount. The scanner could also detect a tray and/or package break indicator, and pause the mailing machine's feeder, thus allowing an operator to remove mailpieces from the output tray and package/tray the mailpieces without disturbing the sequence of the mailpieces.

Please amend paragraph [0021] as follows:

[0021] The barcode could be added to every mailpiece, or only added to the first mailpiece of a set (a set being plural mailpieces with the same information). The barcode indicates the required (including any discounts) postage amount as calculated, for example by SMARTMAILER SmartMailer™. (SMARTMAILER is a trademark of Pitney Bowes Inc., Stamford, CT) It also indicates the package and tray breaks. The barcode may be in addition to any PLANET™ (PLANET is a trademark of the United

States Postal Service) and/or POSTNET barcode or any other information, whether coded, typed or written, that may be on the mailpiece. The scanner may read information from the existing barcodes in addition to the barcode described herein. Also, the scanner may read only the barcode described herein, which may or may not include data from other barcodes on the mailpiece.

Please amend paragraph [0022] as follows:

[0022] As the mailpieces are fed into the mailing machine, an image obtaining device, such as an optical scanner, captures an image of the mailpiece, which may be transmitted to a remote location, such as a server, for example, MailCode POSTBACKOFFICE ~~PostBackOffice~~<sup>TM</sup> server. The image data may be utilized to build a data file that the server uses to support its tracking logic (*i.e.*, *apriori* knowledge of the mail list) for track and trace purposes. Furthermore, it enables the user to see actual images of the mailpiece, which builds user confidence.

Please amend paragraph [0026] as follows:

[0026] Figure 1 shows a system 10 that comprises a mailpiece 102, a feeder 116, an optical device 118, a ~~franking device~~ mailing machine 126, a server 122 and an output module 130.